

Activating Our Position in Christ

1 Corinthians

Introduction

ONE THING

Until our PRACTICE becomes our POSSESSION, our POSITION remains only our POTENTIAL!

1. The IMPRINT of CHRIST

1 Corinthians 1:1–3 (ESV) — Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let’s take a moment to look back again at our key statement for First Corinthians...

Until our practice becomes our possession, our position remains only our potential!

1 Corinthians 1:2b (ESV) — “... to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints...”

SANCTIFIED...

It is in the PERFECT TENSE...

→ Greek Tenses Pic 1

PAST PRESENT FUTURE



The PAST tense is a POINT in the past...

“He WENT to the store”

The PRESENT tense is a time in the present...

“He IS GOING to the store”

The FUTURE tense is a time out in the future...

“He WILL BE GOING to the store”

→ Greek Tenses Pic 1

PERFECT



The PERFECT tense COMBINES these three...

“He HAS BEEN GOING to the store”

With the idea that ...

- He began going in the past...

- **He is continuing to go...**
- **He will be continuing to go in the future...**

We, as believers, are ALWAYS being sanctified in Christ Jesus!

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 (ESV) — Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

2. The IMPACT of CULTURE

Our culture has a much greater impact on the practice of our faith than we realize!

So what exactly was going on in Corinth that led Paul to write this letter?

The believers in Corinth had several problems Paul wrote to address in this letter...

The apostle Paul visited Corinth on his 2nd missionary journey.

He stayed there 18 months teaching and preaching the good news of Jesus.

Corinth was a very metropolitan city.

It was the LA, New York, or Las Vegas of that day.

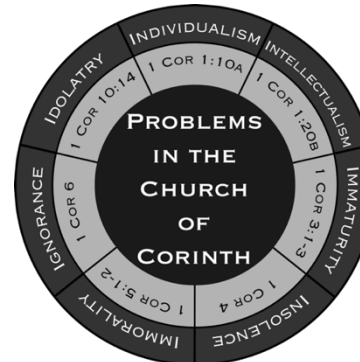
Immorality was rampant

In fact, the Greek verb, “*korinthiazomai*”, meaning, “to act like a Corinthian”, was a verb used for sexual immorality.

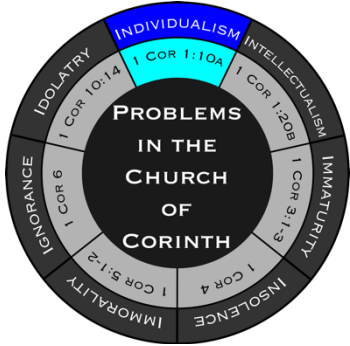
Jesus invaded this city with His Kingdom and the Church was established.

But a few years later, while Paul was in Ephesus, he received report of problems in the Church among the believers.

→ Pic – Corinthian Problems



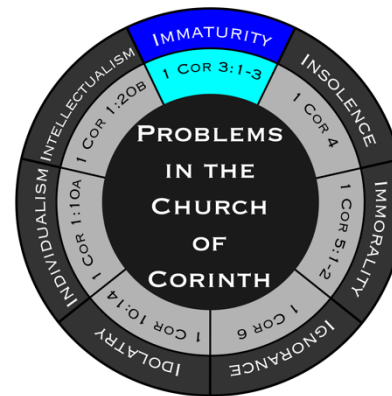
There was rugged INDIVIDUALISM



1 Corinthians 1:10a (ESV)

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you ...

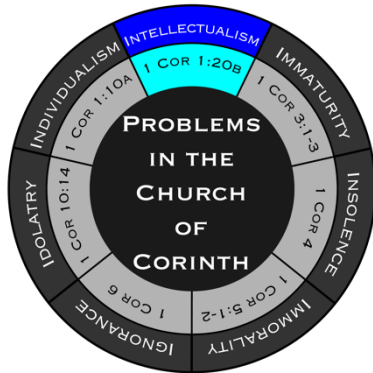
There was prideful INTELLECTUALISM



1 Corinthians 3:1–3 (ESV)

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ... And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?

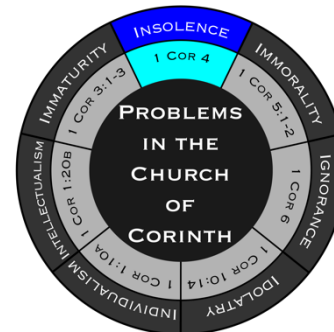
There was rude INSOLENCE



1 Corinthians 1:20b (ESV)

... Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

There was childish IMMATURITY



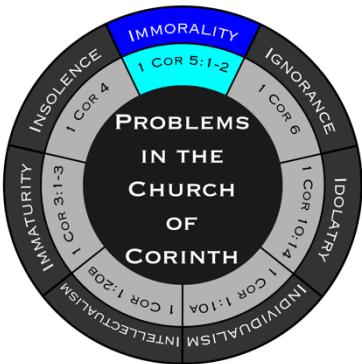
Insolence is rudeness or disrespect...

Some had come cutting down Paul’s ministry and “credentials”...

1 Corinthians 4:14–15 (ESV) — I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

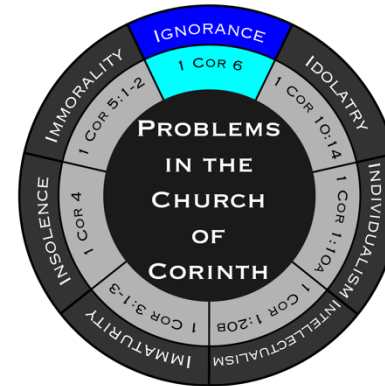
1 Corinthians 4:19–20 (ESV) — But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.

There was boastful IMMORALITY



1 Corinthians 5:1–2a (ESV)
It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father’s wife. And you are arrogant!

There was uninformed IGNORANCE



1 Corinthians 6:2 (ESV) — Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?

1 Corinthians 6:9 (ESV) — Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,

1 Corinthians 6:15 (ESV) — Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

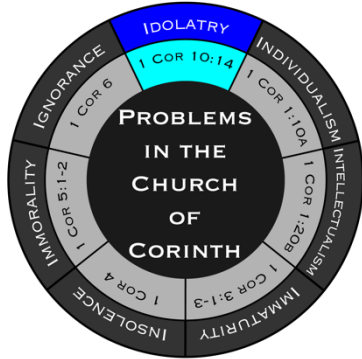
1 Corinthians 6:16 (ESV) — Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.”

1 Corinthians 6:19 (ESV) — Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

Read this next passage in my One Year reading this morning...

1 Corinthians 8:2 (NLT) — Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn't really know very much.

There was ignorant IDOLATRY



1 Corinthians 10:14 (ESV)
Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

As a result of these things, there was

- ***Divisions and Factions***
- ***Lawsuits among believers***
- ***Adultery & Divorce***
- ***Openness to demonic influences and strongholds***
- ***Abuse in taking the Lord's Supper***
- ***Ignorance about Spiritual Gifts***
- ***Confusion in Worship Gatherings***
- ***Rebellion against spiritual leaders***
- ***Abuse by spiritual leaders***

The apostle Paul dealt with all these things

3. The IMPORTANCE of COMMUNITY

1 Corinthians 1:2–3 (ESV) — To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here are just some of the various things Paul will encourage the Church to incorporate into their body...

→ Put all on One Screen ←

- Purity***
- Humility***
- Charity***
- Unity***
- Harmony***

Until our practice becomes our possession, our position remains only our potential!

August 11, 2021

Crossgates – Sermon

David Jett

Activating Our Position in Christ
1 Corinthians
Introduction

Until our _____ becomes our _____,
our _____ remains only our _____!

1. The _____ of _____

2. The _____ of _____

3. The _____ of _____